

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459



BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director

LISA NUÑEZ
Chief Deputy



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August 31, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON CASH ACCESSIBILITY WITH ELECTRONIC BENEFIT
TRANSFER (EBT)**

I am pleased to report to your Board on the continued success of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) in Los Angeles County. As you know, EBT allows participants to access food stamps and cash benefits via a magnetic stripe card, similar to bank debit cards, at participating retailer point of sales terminals and automated teller machines.

The accessibility of cash with EBT in Los Angeles County continues to increase. In last year's update, there were 6,919 locations where participants could get cash. Today there are 7,745 locations, as follows:

- ❖ There are 1,981 surcharge-free locations now available.
- ❖ There are 5,764 locations with surcharges where participants can get cash (in the amount of \$200 or more).
- ❖ The above two totals amount to 7,745 locations where participants can get cash. In addition, other retailers such as WalMart, K-Mart and Target, are not included in this total where participants can get less than \$200 in cash.

Also, in last year's report, there were two zip codes that were reported as underserved. One of these zip codes, Whittier 90608, no longer has a caseload and Crystalair 93544 (located 25 miles southeast of Palmdale in the Antelope Valley) is now fully served.

In conclusion, EBT continues to be very successful in providing participants with easy access to their cash and Food Stamp benefits. Besides removing the stigma associated with using Food Stamp coupons, EBT has improved program integrity and proved to be cost-efficient. EBT has also reduced incidences of fraud.

BY:ag

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"